

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium having a magnetic layer with a thickness ~~[[50nm]]~~ 50 nm or less formed over a surface of an elongated nonmagnetic support by a vacuum thin film forming technique,

wherein an angle  $\theta$  which is a growth direction of magnetic particles in a longitudinal cross-section of said magnetic layer with respect to a line normal to ~~[[a]]~~ said nonmagnetic support, satisfies the following relation:

$$\theta_i - \theta_f \leq 25^\circ.$$

where  $\theta_i$  is an angle of initial growth for said magnetic layer, and  $\theta_f$  is an angle of final growth for said magnetic layer, and

and further wherein a deposition range is restricted such that a maximum incidence angle  $\alpha_i$  and minimum incidence angle  $\alpha_f$  satisfies the relationship:

$$\alpha_i - \alpha_f \leq 25^\circ.$$